

# The New MANFRED NEWS

Volume 4, Issue 4

December 2004

Warm Greetings from  
Manfred, North Dakota!

## Manfred... a living history project!

### *Welcome one and all to this issue of the Manfred News!*

Here's a place where the past and the present connect, providing current generations a chance to 'meet' folks from the past who have so much to teach us.

Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.) is on an urgent mission to gather Manfred's history and rescue its historic buildings in order to help tell a wonderful story... a story of the westward settlement of America exemplified in the setting of this rural village of Manfred.

The history work is under the excellent guidance of Audrey Solheim, and some examples of this are included on this page.

Several friends of Manfred met at Krolls North in Bismarck on January 10, and look forward to future gatherings. Pictured from left: Audrey Solheim, Laverne Johnson, Lorretta Graumann, and Dianne Aull.

Over coffee and conversation, a bit of brainstorming took place... ideas about the 2006 Manfred gathering, money making and PR ideas and much more.



Bernice Gladheim, in 1939, wearing early American attire for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the state of ND

The year was 1939... A young career woman Bernice Gladheim (Nelson) of Manfred was working at the State Bank of North Dakota at Bismarck, and the state was celebrating its golden anniversary. A big parade in honor of the occasion took place in the capital city. The employees of the bank, dressed in early American attire, participated in the celebration. This was recorded in a photo album carefully prepared by Bernice. These photographs were recently discovered and brought to the attention of the Bank of North Dakota's historian, Lance Hill. They were copied and enlarged and now are proudly displayed at the Bank in their historic gallery. These albums are in the care of Bernice's daughter Pam Norstedt.

The Manfred history project is in need of people who would like to help with the interesting work of entering the old Manfred News data into the computer.



Paul and Inez  
LaGrand Rognlie

*Some blessings of the Manfred projects...  
Helping to make the world a better place  
Assisting a tiny village onto its feet  
Celebrating rural America and its down-home values  
Sharing a story of settlement*



From left back: Paul Rognlie, Caroline Melby, Nellie Skattebu, Mary and O.K. Melby. Front left: Sarah LeGrand, Mary Melby. History research in action... This Melby photo prompted inquiry to learn more about Paul Rognlie. The research brought Audrey Solheim to Mary Jane Hanson of Bismarck who shared info and photos about Paul who had been partner in a Manfred store, Rognlie and Sorenson.

Announcing for your 2006 calendar

An opportunity to gather and share at Manfred  
July 2, 2006

The Manfred Heritage Museum will celebrate

\*100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 1906 Vang Church building

\*Dedication of 1894 Roger's Lumber Co./Solheim Service Station

\*Dedication of 1905 Nennie Johnson/Lars Ostrem House

This gathering coincides with the City of Harvey Centennial - June 30 thru July 2, 2006  
Watch for more information in future issues. Plan your lodging arrangements early.

### **The New Manfred News**

A quarterly newsletter celebrating rural America published by Manfred History and Preservation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 321, Harvey, ND 58341.  
Subscription rate is \$10 per year.

News and history items are most welcome!

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## The New Manfred News

*With the continuing help of supporters, Manfred is growing toward its exciting mission to help tell the story of rural North Dakota. In grateful thanks!*

### General Contributions

*General Contributions are vital for the current work of MHP, Inc. The projects are advancing with this help!*

Clarence Alvashere  
Orren and Karen Anderson  
Dale Bentley  
Susan Roble Bertsch  
Kevin and Tresa Boese  
Joe Bolyard and family in memory  
of Ethel Bolyard  
Muriel Boyum  
Hildor and Nellie Deede  
Robert and Donna Foster  
Dorothy Harris  
Hadley and Eileen Haugen  
Al and Norma Holwegner in memory  
of Larry Lindbo  
Derald and Ruth Hoover  
John and Mary Hovey  
Arthur and Marcie Kalenske  
David and Carol Langseth in memory  
of Joel, Alvin, and Ernest Langseth  
Jamie and Josh Maier  
Doug and Lu Oglesby  
Dennis Opdahl  
Robert and Judy Pohl  
Joyce Ravnaas  
Darlene Roble  
Joan Roble  
Gordon and Betty Schimke  
Rolene Schliesman  
Merlin and Laurie Schwartz  
Audrey Solheim in memory  
of Ethel Bolyard  
Irene Sommer  
Mark, Marcie, Marissa Sommer  
Willys and Violet Sprenger  
Dean and Alicia Vorland  
Robert and Margaret Walz

### Designated Gifts

For Highway Signage:

Arthur and Marcie Kalenske  
Jim and Mildred Reiswig in memory  
of Ben and Emma Miller

### Endowment Fund

*An everlasting fund providing for the future*

Verna Bowers in memory of Roger Flick  
In memory of Ethel Bolyard  
Verna Bowers  
Richard and Wanda Melchert  
Reiner and Ruth Widiger  
Wayne and Chris Everett  
Arthur and Marcie Kalenske in memory  
of Vernon Lithun  
Richard and Wanda Melchert in memory  
of Doug Skroch

Many thanks to Otter Tail Power Co for installing a street light on Lake Avenue making it possible to have good lighting at night along this street and the intersections both north and south. This roadway is the main north/south approach into Manfred from Highway 52. The improvement will benefit everyone traveling this road. Thank you to the Manfred Township Board in guiding this project.

A photo of Manfred appeared in the December 13, 2004 issue of The New Yorker Magazine! It's of the Manfred Hotel with the O & M Elevator in the back, taken in 2002 by Robert Polidori. The photo accompanied a fiction story by North Dakota author Louise Erdrich.

Bill Quenette, Moorhead, was inducted into the MN Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame; he was a high school and college teacher for 36 years and coached for 45 years. Bill is the husband of Darlene Anderson Quenette, daughter of Gordon and Christy Anderson.

Sixty five newsletter subscriptions were received during the last quarter. Thank you!!

### Laverne's Manfred Song - 2003

Since its debut in honor of the dedication of the Manfred Heritage Museum in 2003, Laverne Johnson's Manfred Song has met with great success for MHP, Inc. as seen in her report below. The CD or cassette is free with a contribution of \$10.00 and if ordering by mail, add \$2.00 for P&H. Send mail order to: Laverne Johnson, 2126 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Bismarck, ND 58501.

#### MHP, Inc. Donations with CDs or Cassettes

Oct 8, 2004 – Jan 8, 2005

Marge Anderson \$10  
Marilyn DeVeer \$10  
Doris Fortney \$10  
Lorretta Graumann \$25  
Pamela Norstedt \$60

#### Laverne's Manfred Song for MHP, Inc. (Expenses & Income 11/12/03 – 1/8/05)

##### Expenses

Higgins Family Productions	\$514.65
Mailing Envelopes, Receipt Book	28.19
Stamps	19.32
Higgins (additional CDs/cassettes)	171.72
Total	\$733.88
Donations by Laverne	- 500.00
	- 171.72
Remaining Expenses (rounded)	\$62.00

##### Income

Donations for CDs & cassettes (11/13/03 – 1/8/05)	\$1065.00
Expenses	- 62.00
<b>Profit for MHP, Inc.</b>	<b>\$1003.00</b>

## In Memory

**Robert Nicholson**

*November 19, 1918 – July 26, 2004  
Husband of Marian Flick Nicholson*

**Kenneth Schindler**

*February 7, 1942 – August 1, 2004*

**Marvin O. Lillemon**

*March 17, 1921 – November 4, 2004*

**Douglas E. Skroch**

*May 23, 1942 – November 26, 2004  
Husband of Sandra Melby Skroch,  
whose parents are Orlien and Zelda Melby*

**Ethel Melby Bolyard**

*October 18, 1931 – December 21, 2004*

**Mary Ongstad**

*November 23, 1923 - December 22, 2004  
Wife of Duane Ongstad*

**Carl Vik**

*July 2, 1907 – December 25, 2004  
Husband of DeVella Pepple Vik*

**Roger G. Flick**

*July 23, 1930 – December 25, 2004*

**Edna Haluska Hattel**

*July 3, 1918 – January 9, 2005  
Sister of Evelina Boese and Darlene Flick*

**Esther Wagner Miller**

*August 11, 1916 – January 24, 2005*

The Norwegian alphabet contains three letters not found in the English alphabet. Some of them are used in the Melby history. Here they are in lower and upper case: å Å æ Æ ø Ø

### Melby History Piece Acknowledgments

Wells County Home & Farm Directory., Valdres Bygdebok for Øystre Slidre. Gards og Ættesoge for Røe by Ottar Røe. Research work of Wanda Melchert in collaboration with many family contributors of historic materials in the USA and Norway. Special thanks to Renee Lindemann for scanning assistance, and to Audrey Solheim for resource and proofing assistance.

#### In Tribute of Ethel Melby Bolyard

We remember with grateful thanks, Knud and Guri Melby's granddaughter Ethel Bolyard who passed away December 21, 2005. Her extensive family research work over the years formed the basis of the Melby genealogy. Of her many interests, she had great love for family and for the Manfred area where she grew up. She was dedicated to helping with the Manfred projects, her first project was in entering all the Manfred census records into the computer, and more recently she enjoyed working on the old Manfred News data entry project that is still in process. These data bases she created are serving as vital resources in the history work.



## *Knud O. and Guri Melby Family History*



Knud (Rudi) Melby

### *Knud Olson Rudi*

Born June 1, 1843 to  
Ole Mikkelson Rudi and  
Ragnhild Knudsdotter Holdal

### *Guri Kristensdotter Melby*

Born March 8, 1844 to  
Kristen Mikkelson Rogne and  
Guro Gudbrandsdotter Melby



Guri Melby

Knud and Guri grew up on farms in the mountainous region of south central Norway called Valdres. They were both baptized and confirmed in the old Rogne Church (Rogne Kirke) and on April 14, 1861 were married in the new building. Their first seven children were also baptized there.

Knud was from the Storerøe Farm and Guri from the Melby Farm. The Storerøe Farm #51/1 which means 'large clearing,' is located among a group of farms called Røslend or Rudi or Røe on the southwest side of Volbu Lake (Volbufjorden.) The Rogne Church is located on the east side of this lake, with the Melby Farm located just a few miles south of the Rogne Church - both are along present day Highway 51.

Nearly all of the buildings in existence on these farms then have been replaced. The two-story Melby home was purchased, dissembled, and moved with intention to use as a mountain cabin. Another farm associated with Guri's parents and siblings, Røgnsmarké, is located a few miles north of the Rogne Church.



Knud's mother Ragnhild



Guri's mother Guro

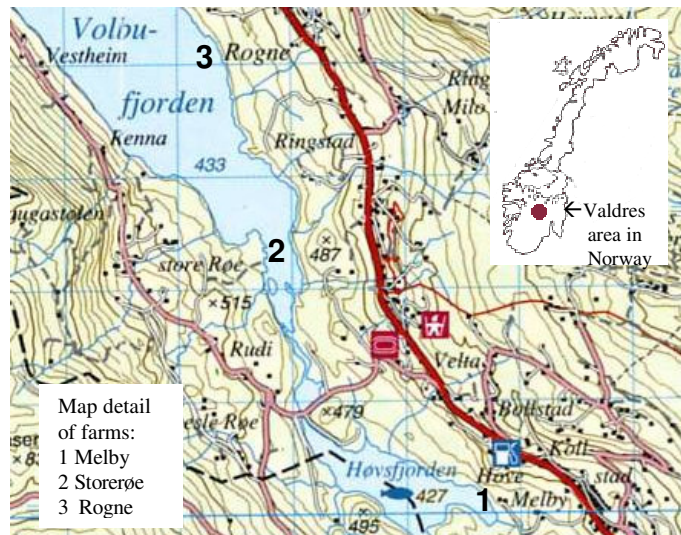
The Storerøe Farm in 1903, overlooking Volbu Lake in valley below



The Melby Farm as of long ago, shown on the slope of the mountain



In Valdres, each farm usually has 2-3 mountain grazing areas: 'heimstølen' (mountain summer pasture farm close to home) and 'langstølen' (high mountain summer pasture farm farther from home.) Above, is the abandoned Lien langstølen 25 kil. from home where Knud and Guri pastured their livestock.



The word 'støl' is used in some regions like Valdres to describe the summer pasture farms, in other parts of Norway the word 'setter' is used for this. The old Melby langstølen is pictured above. Not pictured is the langstølen of the Storerøe Farm called Skåltjernstølen.



## From Knud and Guri's heritage



Rogne Church

The new Rogne Church was dedicated in 1857, just four years before Knud and Guri were married. The altar pictured right was created by the artist, Ole Hermundsen Berge. Guri's uncle through marriage, Ole Johannesen Robøle (See October 2004 Issue, Page 3), was the klokkar (worship leader) at Rogne Church for 38 years, 1840-1878.

Photos taken in 1997.



Altar of Rogne Church

Decorating home interiors, furniture, and other items with painted designs was very popular in the 1800s. Shown at below: Knud's parents had their cupboard painted in 1848, which remains at the Storerøe Farm today. Also, Guro's rømmegrøt container with its Valdres style rose painting remains in the care of descendents of Guro in Norway. A treat to enjoy, rømmegrøt is a rich pudding made from cream.



Inscribed with Guro's name in yellow around the middle as Guro Gudbrandsdatter



Cabinet at Storerøe

Taken in 1980s



1848 inscription painted at top of the Rudi cabinet

18 Ole Mikkel Sen Rangnild Knuds Datter Rudi 48

Spelling of names has varied through the ages

## Knud and Guri's Family Names and Siblings

### Knud's parents and siblings...

### RUDI - RØE

Knud's father Ole 1799-1866 lost his first wife Ragnhild Amundsdatter Kota 1802-1829 from drowning while boating across the lake to check on the cattle at their high mountain pasture. Her passing left behind a one year old daughter, Kari 1828-1871. In 1832, Ole married Ragnhild Knudsdatter Holdal 1811-1897 and together they had eight children: 1. Marit 1833-1906. 2. Ole 1836-1901 became the next farmer of Storerøe. 3. Knud 1843-1927 married Guri Melby. 4. Anne 1845-1912 married Engebret Onstad who are the great grandparents to Audrey Solheim, Manfred's historian. 5. Ole the younger 1848-1922 Unmarried. 6. Ingebjørg 1850-1929. 7. Ragnhild 1855-1898. 8. Marit the younger 1858-1942.

### The Rudi - Røe name...

Spelling variations of the family name have included: Rudt, Rud, Roed, Rude, Ruude, Rudenn, Ruud, Rudie, Rudi, Røe. When Knud was born, the spelling of 'Rudi' was in use. Knud's nephew Ola, farmer of Storerøe 1893-1930, changed the written form of the word from Rudi to Røe in 1912 and his descendents have continued using this spelling.

### MELBY and ROGNE

### Guri's parents and siblings...

The names Melby and Rogne are closely linked, stemming from Guri's parents. It happened that her parents each inherited a farm from their parents. In 1847 her mother, Guro Gudbrandsdatter (Bustebakke) Melby, inherited the Melby farm #46/1. (Guro was born in 1819 on the Bustebakke Farm, and in 1832 her parents purchased Melby.) In 1850 her father, Kristen Mikkelsen Rogne, inherited the Rogne Farm #43/5 called Røgnsmarké. Some of their children ultimately took the surname Melby, while others took Rogne.

Guri's parents, Kristen Rogne 1820-1866 and Guro Melby 1819-? farmed first at Melby where six of their seven children were born: 1. Guri 1844-1921 married Knud Rudi. 2. Gudbrand 1846-1934 became the next farmer of Røgnsmarké. His daughter Guri (Gina) immigrated to the USA, married Lars Burkum and settled at Manfred. 3. Kristen 1850-1851. 4. Marit 1852-? Immigrated to the USA. 5. Guri the younger 1855-1898 immigrated to the USA in 1879 and married Anders (Andrew) Helgeson Opdahl. Anders is related to the Opdahl family from Manfred. 6. Torstein 1859-1950. Torstein, known as T.K. Rogne, immigrated to the USA in 1876 and was partner with Lars Burkum in Manfred's first mercantile Rogne & Burkum and also served as Manfred's first postmaster.

### The Melby and Rogne names...

Spelling variations for Melby going back to 1520 include: Melbu, Meelbye, Mielby. Guri's family spelled the name Melbye, but later dropped the 'e' resulting in the spelling of Melby. In ancient times, this name was Meoalbyr. Documented spelling variations of Rogne beginning from 1336 include Roghns, Rongs, Rogns, Ron, Ragn, Roffuene, Rawffne, Roggenn, Rogen, Røgne, Rogne.



## *Knud and Guri Melby in Norway*

1861 was an eventful year for Kristen, Guro and family. Their eldest daughter, Guri, was ready to marry. Kristen and Guro let her, as their eldest child, inherit the farm rather than as was customary that the eldest male inherit it. Knud Rudi, her fiancé, was able to obtain his share of his Rudi inheritance, which he then used to buy the Melby Farm from Guri's parents. Guri and Knud married April 14, 1861, and in doing so Knud changed his address from Rudi to Melby and his name became Knud Olson (Ole's son) of Melby. The name he used throughout life was Knud O. Melby. Kristen and Guro together with their remaining children moved to their Rogne Farm, Røgnsmarke. Soon after, Kristen and Guro were blessed with the birth of their seventh child, Kristen, on September 12, 1861. Later upon coming of age, this son Kristen immigrated to the USA in 1880 and in time settled at Manfred, where he farmed and also owned and operated the C.C. Melby Store in Manfred.

Knud and Guri commenced with farming at the Melby Farm, and soon began their family. Born to them in Norway were: Guri 1862, Ole 1864, Kristen 1868, Knute 1870, Ragnhild 1873, Gulbrand 1877, and Marit 1880. It was not so easy to provide for a large family living on the small Melby Farm. Several of their family and friends had already immigrated to America and were sending back encouraging reports. After 20 years of their life together on the Melby Farm, Knud and Guri made the decision to sell it. On May 12, 1881 they left Norway to immigrate to America with their seven children, ranging in age from 19 years to 8 months. It would be 27 years later, in December 1908, before Knud had occasion to visit dear Norway

## *Knud and Guri Melby in America*

### **1 GOODHUE COUNTY, MN - 1881 to 1884**

Knud and Guri's destination in America was to Goodhue County, Minnesota near Kenyon where others from Valdres had already established successful farms. They stayed there three years working for others while becoming acquainted with their new homeland.

### **← LYONS COUNTY, MN**

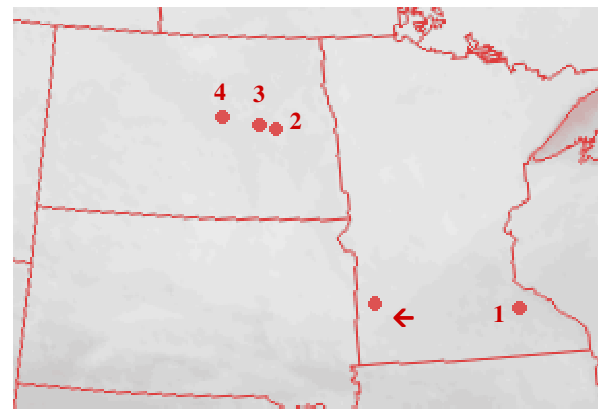
Two of Knud and Guri's children settled near her sister Guri Opdahl (Guri the younger) at Minneota-Ghent: Guri (daughter) in 1885 and Kristen in 1890.

### **2 GRIGGS COUNTY, ND - 1884 to 1887**

In 1884, Knud and Guri were ready to have their own farm, so they moved to Griggs County, Dakota Territory (now ND) near others they knew. One can only imagine how their hearts filled with thanks to start up their own farm in the USA!! On May 17, 1884, Knud declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States. Their eighth child, Caroline was born in September of that year. Their eldest daughter Guri married Ole Ranum in 1885 and settled in Lyon County, MN. Their ninth child, Martin was born in 1886.

### **3 FOSTER COUNTY, ND - 1887 to 1894**

In 1887, Knud and Guri moved a little further west and began farming on a quarter of land in Foster County. Knud and Guri's home served as the first mail stop during those years. Also, Knud, together with others in his family organized the first school district which was called Melby, he serving as its first chairman. Knud and Guri's tenth child, Oscar, was born there in 1890. On October 8, 1890, Knud and his family became citizen's of the United States. This happy occasion was witnessed by Guri's brother T.K. Rogne and also E.T. Halaas. In the early 1890s, the crops were failing in Foster County. The Soo Railroad track was being constructed westward through the region, so all the men went to work building the railroad track. As it was being laid, they had opportunity to see the new lands that would soon be open for settlement. Knud and others thought that Wells County looked good, so they went to Sykeston, the location of the first court house in Wells County. The year was 1893. Each man filed on a claim, all located not far from the railroad track. Back in Foster County, they began making preparations to load up all their meager belongings the next spring. With lumber precious, Knud even took his barn apart and hauled it by wagon. The families gathered their domestic animals together, and with wagons loaded caravanned to their new claims in Manfred Township, Wells County.



Knud and Guri's westward migration

1-Goodhue County, MN      3-Foster County, ND  
2-Griggs County, ND      4-Wells County, ND



Knud and Guri Melby c1892

Together with their four youngest children  
From left: Caroline and Mary in back,  
and Oscar and Martin in front.

## *Knud and Guri Melby at Manfred*

### 4 WELLS COUNTY, ND – 1894 and on through life

Having passed the winter of 1893 thinking of their anticipated move, spring gave way to the reality of finally reaching their destination. Everyone knew what to expect in starting again from scratch, having been well versed from their previous moves. Unlike the past year when the men building the railroad track had viewed a region virtually unpopulated save for only a few settlers, now there were people settling all through the region starting up on their new homesteads. Everyone was busy putting up sod houses to use as temporary housing, and preparing some of the new land in order to put in their first crop.



Knud and Guri Melby's farm location  
SW quarter of Sec 8, T 149, R 71

At right:

The barn that Knud and Guri moved from Foster County can be seen beyond the house in this photo. Their granary is visible at the far right, and further to the right beyond the photo was their small animal building. Today this land enjoys seed time and harvest under the care of Sam Ongstad.



Knud and Guri Melby at their farmstead four miles NW of Manfred

As a result of so many people moving into the area and settling on their homesteads in 1894, the village of Manfred was suddenly springing up to serve the farm community. Started that year in the village were the Rogne & Burkum Store and post office, Roger's Lumber Company, and Vang Lutheran congregation. Knud and his son Ole were two of five Vang charter members. Knud and Guri were active members there, as well as of Fagerlund Sons of Norway. Knud and Guri also helped raise support to send back to Rogne Church in Valdres. Knud and Guri were very welcoming and gracious hosts to one and all, and music was always a part of gatherings. Guri invariably had lots of cookies on hand for her grandchildren and neighbor children. Adolph Shirley fondly recalls that when he and his brother took lunch to their father in the field beyond the Melby place, Guri would always call them over to have cookies.

Knud and Guri farmed until 1911, at which time they moved into Manfred and their son Oscar continued on their farm. Guri began to fail in her later years, and died in 1921. After that, Knud would often stay at the home of one of his several children. He liked to keep busy, so as a result, the groves of trees on his children's homesteads were blessed with his attention of keeping them clean, which also provided much needed fire wood for the cook stove. Knud is fondly remembered for his quiet gentle manner. He died in 1927. Both Knud and Guri are buried at Vang Lutheran Cemetery at Manfred.



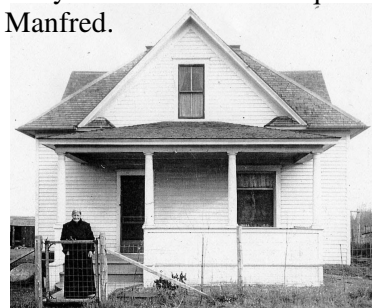
Knud and Guri Melby Family

Left back: Ole, Martin, Nellie, Oscar, Caroline, Chris, Guri, Gilbert, Knute  
Knud and Guri are seated in front. Daughter Mary, not pictured.



At left:

Knud on his son Oscar's farm by a wood pile built as a result of his enjoyment of keeping the groves clean.



In 1911, Knud and Guri retired to a home in Manfred across the street to the east of the Manfred School





## 1. *Guri and Ole Ranum*

Guri, also known as Julia, was born on February 17, 1862. She grew up on the Melby farm in Rogne, Øystre Slidre, Valdres, Norway and attended the Rogne school and church. In 1881 when she was 19 years old, her parents sold the Melby farm and the whole family emigrated together from Norway to the USA, with the destination of Goodhue County, Minnesota. In 1884, her parents moved to Griggs County North Dakota where they filed on a homestead, but Guri (Julia) did not go there. Instead, she went to live in Lyon County in southwestern Minnesota, where her aunt Guri (The Younger) Melby Opdahl and her husband Anders Opdahl had been living since 1879.

Ole was born September 10, 1858 in Stokkebryn, North Aurdal, Valdres, Norway to Juel O. Ranum and Guri (Julia) Gulbrandsdotter. He came to the USA to southwest MN in 1875, and in 1884 took over the farming operation of his parents at Ghent MN in Lyon County. On May 30, 1885, Guri Melby and Ole Ranum married at Minneota MN. Several of their children were born there: George in 1886-? (Inez Mitchell-2 children.) Konrad Oscar in 1887 known as Oscar, and Emil in 1890-1898 (Katie Babcock-8 children.) The rest of their children were also born in MN: Ida 1892-1895 and Clara 1894-1986 (Mrs. Ole Gladheim-8 children) at Cottonwood, and Gladys 1899-1974 (Mrs. Raymond Pfundheller-3 children) at Madison.

Ole and Guri Ranum and family moved to Manfred by 1900 or before the summer of 1901, as school records for June and July of 1901 indicate their children Oscar and Clara attended School #3 of Manfred Township. Konrad Oscar was confirmed at Vang Lutheran in 1903. He died in 1906 and is buried at Vang Lutheran Cemetery. Ole and Guri Ranum and family joined as members of Vang Lutheran in 1906. Their daughter Clara was confirmed in 1909 and daughter Gladys in 1913. Ole's parents also moved to Manfred and are buried at Vang Lutheran Cemetery; Juel died in 1916 and Guri in 1933. Ole Ranum died March 26, 1938 and Guri October 22, 1938; both are buried at Vang Lutheran Cemetery.

## 2. *O.K. and Mary Melby*

Ole, also known as O.K. Melby, was born December 13, 1864, growing up on the Norway. In 1881 when he was 16½ years old, he immigrated with his family to the USA, Goodhue County, Minnesota. It is said that he returned to Norway and spent two years there working to pay off a debt the family had incurred enabling them to come to America. In 1884, his parents moved to Griggs County North Dakota where they had filed on a homestead, and in 1887 they moved to Foster County. Here Ole filed on his own land and started farming.

On December 23, 1889 he married Marit Skattebo, known as Mary. Mary was born in Øystre Slidre, Valdres, Norway on September 18, 1872 to Karina Skattebo and Nils Nordtorp. She immigrated to the USA with her family in 1884. They settled at Northfield MN remaining there three years, before moving to Foster County in 1887. There she met and married Ole. Their only child, Gurina Olava Melby, died in infancy.

In 1890, Ole, his father Knud, his uncle T.K. Rogne and others, founded the Melby School District in Foster County. But, in 1892 the crops had failed, so times were desperate. Many, including Ole, found work building the railroad track through ND. As they worked westward through Wells County, Ole and others decided to file on land there in 1893, and then in 1894 moved their families and few belongings. For a number of years, Ole and Mary were busy farming on their land north of Manfred, and Ole owning and operating a threshing outfit for the fall harvest.

In addition to farming, Ole also bought grain in the early years. Later he established the Manfred Lumber Company, and was also associated in a garage business. Ole and Mary built a home in Manfred in 1903, where they lived the remainder of their lives. They were charter members of Vang Lutheran church, and very active throughout the years with both church and community. Their financial backing and participation in the community was a significant help to Manfred. Mary died November 8, 1936 and Ole died October 24, 1940. Both are buried at Vang Lutheran Cemetery of Manfred ND.



Guri & Ole Ranum on their wedding 1885  
Seated are Ole's parents, Juel & Guri Ranum



Ole and Guri Ranum 1935  
on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary



Ole (O.K.) and Mary Melby c1899



O.K. and Mary Melby's farm c.1935  
SE¼ of Section 9 in Manfred Township



O.K. and Mary Melby's 1903 home c1908  
in Manfred, now a part of the Manfred  
Heritage Museum.  
Olaf Anderson's Livery pictured in the left  
back and his home shown to the north of  
O.K. and Mary's home.

### 3. *C.K. and Mary Melby*

Kristen, also known as C.K. Melby or Chris, or Christ, was born January 11, 1868. He grew up on the Melby farm in Norway and in 1881 when he was 13 years old moved with his family to Goodhue County, MN, Griggs County, ND in 1884, and Foster County in 1887. In the fall of 1889, he left home and went on his own. Then, in 1890 at age 22 he settled in Lyon County, MN where his aunt Guri Opdahl and his sister Guri Ranum lived.

On October 3, 1891 at Minneota, MN, Chris married Mary Haas Marken Larson born May 11, 1874 at Minneota Minnesota, the only child of Arnt Larson and Jorgina Haas who were both born in Mosjøen, Norway.

Chris was not only a farmer, but he was an influential businessman in banking, and in a hardware and implement business 1911-1918. In 1916, Chris was elected to the House of Representatives serving two terms in the MN legislature. In 1919, he moved to North Dakota and bought his father's farm. He and his family became very active in the Manfred community and in Vang Lutheran Church. Music was a very important part of Chris' life; he shared this love with his family and in directing the Vang Lutheran Choir. His entire family was very musical. Their daughter Grace played the organ at Vang Lutheran Church. In 1929, Chris and Mary returned to their farm in Lyon County.

Throughout Chris' life he was in public service and a leader in many organizations: township, county commissioners, church, cooperative elevator, creamery, and oil company. Chris died December 13, 1936 and Mary August 21, 1937. Both are buried at Minneota MN.

Thirteen children were born to Chris and Mary: Clarence 1892-1985 (Katherine/Nellie Jensen-5 children; George 1894-1937 (Nellie Smith-2 children; Almer 1895-Died before 1972 (Dorothy Clayton-1 child, Grace Clark-1 child; Grace 1897-1932 (Mrs. Charles Hanson-1 child; Orvin 1899-1917 (He and two horses were killed by lightning; Agnes 1902-1902; Julius 1903-1904; June 1904-1996 (Mrs. Ernest Hams-4 children; Olga 1907-1952 (Mrs. Joseph Regnier-5 children; Kermit 1909-1911; Lillian 1911-? (Mrs. Adolph Stelter-4 children; and Harriet 1915-? (Mrs. Roy Payne-3 children.)

### 4. *Knute K. and Josephine Melby*

Knute, also known as K.K. Melby, was born November 10, 1870. His first 10½ years were spent Norway. He then moved with his family to Goodhue County, MN in 1881, Griggs County ND in 1884, and Foster County in 1887. By this time Knute was a young man, ready to go on his own. He went north to Ramsey County ND and was in the grain business at Souris and Edmore. Later, he became a representative for Hixson and Grannon Grain Co. His job took him to Nebraska, and it is here that he met and married Josephine Jurgensen in 1896 at Omaha. They had two children: Beatrice Melby 1897-1973 (Mrs. Paul Miller-6 children; and June 1900-1998 (Mrs. Quentin Woods-3 children.)

Later, Knute and his family moved to North Dakota first living in Manfred for awhile, before settling at Grand Forks. He worked for the Tenney company, auditing the books for elevators in the region which included the elevators at Manfred ND. One of the elevator managers in Manfred at that time was Mr. Paulson. These frequent job-related visits to Manfred gave Knute the opportunity to visit his parents and others at Manfred. It is remembered that he would have coffee with folks during his stops.

During the years living at Grand Forks, Knute was an active member of the Presbyterian Church, the Masonic Lodge, Sons of Norway, and the Union of Commercial Travelers. Josephine died April 1936 in Grand Forks. Knute later moved to Minot living there for 16 years, first with his daughter Beatrice and husband Paul Miller, and then at the Lutheran Home for the Aged during his final years. Knute died in 1959 at Minot ND. Knute and Josephine are both buried at Grand Forks ND.

Myrtle Sailer, Martin Melby's daughter recalled that "Uncle Knute was just such a nice person, soft spoken. I was really proud of him, and proud to be related to him. Josephine was really nice too."

Bob Cory wrote a poem about Knute which he printed in his column for the Minot Daily News, a portion of which reads: "Melby of Valdres (and Grand Forks and Minot.) The mellow and genial Knute, As mellow as a loaf of graham bread, As genial to any man as most would be only to their grandchildren."



Chris (C.K.) and Mary Melby 1891



C.K. and Mary Melby Family 1899

Back: C.K., Clarence, Mary  
Front: Grace, George, Almer, Orvin



Knute and Josephine Melby 1896



Knute and Josephine Melby Family 1910  
From left: Knute, June, Beatrice, Josephine



## 5. *Nellie and Olaf Wolding*

Ragnhild, known as Nellie, was born October 7, 1873 and lived on the Melby farm in Norway until she was 7½ at which time she moved to America with her parents, first to Goodhue County, MN, then Griggs and Foster Counties in ND. It was in Foster County where in the early 1890s she married Ole G. Skattebo also from Rogne, Norway who was born March 13, 1868 to Gulbrand Knudson Skattebo and Marit Olsdotter.

Ole and Nellie homesteaded on section 11 of West Norway Township, about 10 miles NE of Manfred. They joined Vang Lutheran Church in 1895, and Ole served as a Deacon beginning in 1896. The nice life they had begun together was short lived, when Ole learned that he was terminally ill. He wished to return to Norway to spend his final days, so Ole and Nellie went back to Rogne where he died May 29, 1899.

Nellie then notified her brother O.K. Melby of her husband's passing, at which time, O.K. departed for Norway with the mission of escorting Nellie back to North Dakota. The 1900 census indicates that Nellie went to live with her parents on their farm.

On December 29, 1901, Nellie married Olaf Wolding. Olaf was born in Iowa in 1871 and had homesteaded in Wells County on section 35 of Fram Township north of Manfred. After their marriage, they moved to section 19 in Hillsdale Township located in the NW corner of Wells County about halfway between Harvey and Martin.

In 1919, Olaf and Nellie moved further west in North Dakota to Big Bend Township in Mountrail County. They helped found Grand Valley Lutheran Church and are buried there. Olaf died March of 1942, and Nellie on December 16, 1955.

Six children were born to them: Beatrice 1902-1980 (Mrs. Gerhard Gullickson-4 children Gerhard was in the 1909 Vang Conf. Class-4 children;) Gladys 1905-1994 (Mrs. L. Cecil Hungate-1 child, after Cecil died Gladys married Chester Sherva;) Lila 1907-1995 (Mrs. Willard Burchett;) Cora 1909-2001 (Mrs. James Sloan-2 children, after James died Cora married Steve Elliot and after he died she married Dave Walls;) Orvin 1912-2000 (Pearl Tommerdahl-2 children;) and Alfred/Fritz 1916-1989 (Gladys Sanerson-2 children.)



Nellie and Olaf Wolding 1901



Olaf and Nellie Wolding Family c.1930

Back: Beatrice, Cora, Orvin, Lila, Gladys  
Front: Alfred, Olaf, Nellie

## 6. *Gilbert K. and Esther Melby*

Gulbrand, known as G.K. Melby or Gilbert, was born April 4, 1877 on the Melby farm in Norway. Having just turned 4 years old, he and his family moved to Goodhue County, MN in 1881, to Griggs County in 1884, Foster County in 1887, and in 1893 to Manfred Township in Wells County. At age 16, Gilbert was too young to file on a homestead, but he was able to help his parents start up their new farm.

Gilbert met Esther LeGrand and they married Dec 11, 1895 at Manfred. She was born Sept 7, 1873 in Skane, Gotland, Sweden as Astrid Hildegard LeGrand to Joseph Alfred LeGrand and Anna Kristina Lindstrom. She immigrated to the USA in 1885 with her parents, first settling at Northwood ND before coming to Manfred Township.

Gilbert and Esther bought land located in section 30 of Manfred Township that had been in the LeGrand family. They were active in the Manfred community, and began their family here. Gilbert lost a foot in an elevator accident, but didn't let this hold him back in any way. He managed very well with the help of an artificial foot.

Gilbert and Esther moved to Kenmare in 1904, to Coteau in 1909, next to Bowbells, and lastly to a farm west of Bowbells. Gilbert farmed most of his life and was a wonderful musician. He directed the Coteau Band and many of his sons also played in his band. He was also the band director at Bowbells. He was well known as a grain buyer, school board member of Coteau, township boards in Burke County, the Selective Service Board for Burke County during WW I and II, served one term as Burke County auditor 1914-1920. He belonged to the Bowbells Masonic Lodge and Minot Elks Lodge. Esther was a quiet caring person, well respected in the community. Esther died May 30, 1938. Gilbert died October 9, 1963.

Thirteen children were born to them: Cecelia 1896-1980 (Mrs. Arthur Nelson;) Carlton 1897-1978 (Edith Larson-3 children;) Arthur 1899-1993 (Catherine Mullins-1 child;) Marion 1900-1971 (Mrs. George Peterson-1 child;) Ida 1901-1973 (Mrs. Lawrence Erickson-4 children;) Elmer 1902 (Mary Lyle-4 children;) Gordon 1904-1928; Morris 1906-c2000; Evelyn 1907-1925; Raymond 1909-2001 (Joan Schultz-5 children;) Earl 1911-1969 (Beth Dibble-3 children;) Alice 1913-2002 (Michael Ameson-1 child, Elvin Peterson;) Irene 1916-1984 (Robert Haines-2 children.)

1930s



Photo at left:  
Gilbert Melby  
when he served  
as director of  
the Coteau  
Concert Band.



Esther at left  
with her sister Sara.h



Esther  
Melby



Gilbert Melby Family 1950s

Back: Morris, Carlton, Raymond, Elmer, Arthur  
Middle: Alice, Marion, Cecelia, Ida  
Front: Irene, Gilbert, Earl

## 7. Mary and Arvid Satterberg

Marit, known as Mary was born September 13, 1880 in Rogne, Øystre Slidre, Valdres, Norway living there only in infancy. In 1881 when she was just eight months old, her parents sold the Melby farm and the whole family emigrated from Norway to Goodhue County, Minnesota. In 1884, her parents homesteaded to Griggs County, North Dakota, and in 1887 they moved to Foster County and farmed there for six years. It was here where she attended most of her grade school years. In 1893, her parents moved to Manfred Township in Wells County where she completed her schooling in 1896.

Arvid Satterberg, an avid horseman, and his brother John filed on homesteads in Fram Township bordering Manfred Township to the north. Arvid's land was in section 26, and in this way Arvid and Mary had the opportunity to meet through living in the same community. They were married around the turn of the century at Manfred and farmed for some years in Fram Township. It is very interesting to note that Arvid and Mary's land was located in the next section north from Olaf Wolding, who married Mary's sister Nellie.

Six children were born to Mary and Arvid: Roy (Mary-No children;) Elmer 1902 (Peggy-1 child;) Arvid 1904 (Leah-3 children;) Ruby 1905-1996 (Mrs. Raleigh Washburn-2 children;) Lillian 1907-1993 (Mrs. Fred Seeman-2 children;) Marion 19??-1998 (Mrs. Sam Hartwick.) The family later moved further west to Montana for a while, and then on to California. Though California was a long way from North Dakota, Mary was able to see her brothers and sisters from time to time. She died in 1957, and she and Arvid are buried in California.



Mary Satterberg Family  
Front: Ruby, Mary, Marion, Lillian  
Back: Roy, Elmer, Arvid

Arvid and Mary  
Satterberg

Olaf and Caroline  
Anderson



Caroline Anderson Family 1956  
From left: Orvin, Caroline, Clayton, Alice, Gordon



c1900



1903

## 8. Caroline and Olaf Anderson

Knud and Guri Melby and family had emigrated from Norway in 1881, and after a three year stay near Kenyon in Goodhue County MN they settled on their first homestead in Griggs County ND in 1884. Then on September 3<sup>rd</sup> of that year, their eighth child Caroline, known to her friends and family as Lena, was born. In 1887, the family moved to Foster County ND, where Caroline attended most of her grade school years. In company with relatives and friends, the Melby family caravanned to Manfred Township in Wells County in 1894 and settled on their homesteads. It was there Caroline completed her schooling. Sennev Whipple, early Manfred historian, relates that Caroline taught school in her community and was well liked by her pupils.

Sennev also wrote that Caroline met her future husband, Olaf Anderson in 1900 at a social gathering at the home of her brother O.K. Melby. Three years later on December 10, 1903 they were married at Vang Lutheran Church. They built a fine home in Manfred, which still exists today... see photo on page 7. Olaf was born in Norway in 1877. In 1897, he settled in Hillsdale Township located in the northwest corner of Wells County. Manfred was a booming town with much railroad traffic, and an ideal place to start a livery. Olaf built a large barn for his business, and started up a dray service to haul goods to and from the railroad. He also started up an ice business in the winter with a crew of several men, cutting ice from the James River and shipping it by train. For Olaf, a natural addition to his dray service was to sell automobiles when they first became available and other farm equipment as well. (See Oct 2004 Issue, Page 6b)

Caroline was active in the Vang Ladies Aid, cooked in the cook cars for threshing, and was well known for her yard filled with beautiful flowers. Olaf died suddenly of a heart attack in 1931, and Caroline continued to live in her home in Manfred. She died in 1971, and both Olaf and she are buried at the Vang Lutheran Cemetery.

Four children were born to Carolyn and Olaf: Clayton 1904-1982 (Katherine/Kay O'Keefe;) Gordon 1907-1992 (Christine Ostrem-4 children;) Alice 1912 (Mrs. William Smith-3 children;), Orvin 1917-1985 (Lila Hirshkorn-3 children.)



## 9. Martin K. and Alma Melby

Martin, also known as M.K. Melby, was born in Griggs County on October 7, 1886. In 1887, the family moved to Foster County North Dakota, the next county west, and it was there that Martin began his schooling. In 1894, he moved with his family to the newly opened land of Manfred Township in Wells County where he completed his education.

Having been raised on a farm, Martin was well acquainted with field work and chores, and helped with the harvest too, all of which would serve him well in later years when he had his own farm and also was the owner/operator of a threshing rig which he ran for many years. Martin had early training in business by working for his uncle, C.C. Melby, in his store. In 1918, he served as a mail carrier, and in 1919 he bought into the Ford garage in Manfred retaining this until 1939. He drove a school bus until 1945. Martin played the bass drum in the Manfred Cornet Band for a time, served on the Manfred Township Board, notary public, member of the Manfred Cooperative Elevator, and Manfred School Board. He was a member of the Harvey Masonic Lodge, Fagerlund Sons of Norway, and Vang Lutheran Church.

Martin married Alma Rosette Haugen on August 30, 1911 at Vang Lutheran Church. Alma, born April 28, 1892, was the daughter of Tollef Haugen and Bertha Jomen who farmed near Manfred. She was one of eleven confirmands in Pastor J.M. Langseth's first confirmation class in 1909. Martin and Alma's first home was the second story in his parent's home. Later they had a home built in the LeGrand Addition of Manfred, which still exists today.

Four children were born to Martin and Alma: Myrtle 1914 (Mrs. Ludwig/Lewey Sailer-5 children;) Kermit 1916-1992 (Lillian Elton-5 children;) Ellanora 1922 (Mrs. Charles Houtkooper-4 children;) and Donald 1924-2002 (Margaret Eidbo-5 children.) Martin died August 9, 1977 and Alma died March 6, 1982. Both are buried at Manfred ND.



Martin and Alma Melby Family 1945  
Back: Myrtle, Kermit, Ellanora, Donald  
Front: Martin and Alma

Martin and Alma  
Melby  
1911



Bertha and Oscar Melby  
1910

Oscar and Bertha Melby Family  
Back: Gene, Orlien, Oscar, Roy, Kenneth  
Front: Ethel, Muriel, Bertha, Ruth, Cora Early 1940s



## 10. Oscar J. and Bertha Melby

Oscar, also known as O.J. Melby, was born on March 7, 1890 in Foster County. When Oscar was 4 years old, his family moved to Manfred Township where Oscar took all his schooling. He became well-versed in farming having worked with his father and older brother Martin. His parents retired in 1911, at which time Oscar took over farming his father's land.

He married Bertha Nordtorp on July 10, 1910 in Millet Alberta Canada. Bertha was born May 12, 1891 in Øystre Slidre, Valdres, Norway to Gullik and Ragnhild Nordtorp. She immigrated with her family to the USA in 1892 on Bertha's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday, but returned to Norway in 1898, only to return again in 1906 on her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. They settled both times in Manfred. Bertha and Oscar became engaged in 1908, but her parents moved to Canada and they needed her help. Oscar and Bertha kept in touch by letter, and after the crops were planted in 1910, Oscar went to Canada where they were married.

In 1914, Oscar and Bertha bought land in section 30 of Manfred Township which had earlier passed from brother to brother... Gilbert, then Chris, then Ole, and then finally to Oscar. Oscar was busy farming both his farmland and that of his father, until his brother Chris bought Knud's farm in 1919. Oscar and Bertha owned and operated a threshing rig for 22 years. Oscar was very musical having a beautiful high tenor voice, and played the clarinet and violin. He taught music to his children, instilling in them a love for it. Oscar and Bertha were very active in Vang Lutheran, and Fagerlund Sons of Norway.

Oscar died February 16, 1954, at which time their son Gene took over the farming. In the late 1950s, Bertha and her sisters Emma and Anne were thrilled to take a trip to Norway and visit their relatives. In 1965, Bertha moved to Manfred where she continued her active life and very warm hospitality. Bertha died November 11, 1985. Both are buried at Manfred.

Oscar and Bertha had eight children: Cora 1912-1998 (Mrs. Emmett Turner-2 children;) Roy 1916-1989 (Gertrude Helling-2 children. Gertrude died in 1963 and in 1965 Roy married Helen Hammeren;) Ruth 1919-1993 (Mrs. Carl Hovey-4 children;) Muriel 1921 (Mrs. Raymond Schwartz-2 children. Raymond died in 1974 and in 1986 Muriel married Dr. Lowell Boyum;) Orlien 1924 (Zelda Rudel-1 child;) Kenneth 1925 (Jeanne Larson-1 child;) Gene 1928 (Betty Rodacker-6 children;) Ethel 1931-2004 (Mrs. Joe Bolyard-2 children.)